FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

22 SEPTEMBER 1986

Iran-Iraq War

A military communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian troops launched another attack west of Mehran 18 September, but INA said the offensive was crushed by Iraqi forces, who killed or wounded 4,400 Iranians and took control over all the border heights. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio stated that the Iraqis expelled the Iranians from two positions which the latter had reached, thus purging the enemy from "every inch" of Iraqi positions in this sector. However, IRNA maintained that Iran repulsed two Iraqi counterattacks in the area over the weekend, preventing Iraq's attempt to recapture the heights "liberated" by Iranian forces last week. The agency also claimed that over 1,000 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded in the Mehran sector 16-21 September.

As for aerial activity, IRNA announced that Iranian warplanes bombed Iraqi radar installations in Rawanduz 20 September, setting the targets on fire. For Iraq's part, a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses reported another Iraqi strike on a large maritime target near the Iranian coast later that day. Meanwhile, IRNA reported that an explosion heard in Tehran was the result of tests being conducted on a new missile defense system for the Iranian capital.

Kuwait-USSR

A high-ranking Kuwaiti security delegation left for Moscow 22 September, KUNA reported, noting that the delegation leader will discuss security cooperation with Soviet Interior Ministry officials and will acquaint himself with Soviet security equipment.

Lebanon

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported further clashes between the Army of Southern Lebanon (ASL) and "extremist organizations" 21 September, announcing that "ferocious" fighting was raging in areas near Jazzin. The ASL shelled Al-Nabatiyah and nearby villages, causing several casualties, Voice of National Resistance Radio stated. Three IDF soldiers were wounded by mortar fire in the central sector of southern Lebanon 20 September, according to Jerusalem radio, which cited IDF sources as saying that Israel is prepared to increase the number of its soldiers in the security zone and step up aid to the ASL. Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin told the radio that Israel will respond "in a devastating manner" to further attacks on the ASL so as to inflict large casualties on the Hizballah and Amal gunmen carrying out the attacks. Southern Lebanese civilians who collaborate with Hizballah "will not be allowed to live in peace if we are not allowed to live in peace," Rabin warned.

French UNIFIL troops evacuated a number of positions in the south over the weekend, a UNIFIL source disclosed in a statement cited by the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio. Nepalese units took over the former French positions, the radio added. The redeployment of French forces followed another attack on their positions in which five people were injured, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Syria

Security — Syrian security authorities are convinced that bombings in Damascus and northern Syria earlier this year were planned by the Muslim Brotherhood in collaboration with Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah movement, according to an article in the Beirut *Le Reveil cited by Radio Free Lebanon. The authorities are* increasingly worried about security, the paper said, noting reports of recent bomb attacks in Damascus against shops owned by 'Alawites.

Al-Asad Meets Lebanese — President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party leader Walid Junblatt 20 September for talks about the situation in Lebanon, Damascus radio reported. The next day Al-Asad received the speaker of the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies for talks on the same subject, SANA reported.

Libya

Rejection of Mediation — A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement cited by JANA dismissed Sudan's offer to mediate between Libya and the United States, stressing that Libya "cannot accept mediation with the U.S. Administration" as long as it is headed by Ronald Reagan.

Relations With PLO — Diplomatic and Palestinian sources told the UAE's *Al-Ittihad* that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has announced Libya's readiness to receive all PLO groups, including Fatah, if those groups want to move to Tripoli. Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, is expected to arrive in Libya shortly, the sources added.

Egypt

Talks With King Husayn — Foreign Ministry First Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz conferred with Jordan's King Husayn and the Jordanian prime minister in London 19 September, MENA reported, adding that Al-Baz briefed the king on President Husni Mubarak's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres. The views of the two countries are in "full agreement," the agency continued.

Security Around Embassies — The interior minister announced the strengthening of security measures around embassies and strategically important buildings "in light of recent events in other parts of the world," MENA reported. The minister said he knows nothing of a threat against the U.S. Embassy in Cairo

made by a group calling itself the Revolutionary Organization of Egypt, the agency continued.

Communists Arrested — An Interior Ministry source announced that 12 members of the Egyptian Communist Party were arrested for forming "secret cells" on behalf of the banned organization, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

Israel

Gaza — An Arab youth was shot dead in Gaza 20 September when IDF soldiers fired in the air to disperse a demonstration by stone-throwing youths, Jerusalem radio reported.

PRC Relations — Israel and the PRC are expected to establish diplomatic relations "within a few months," *Yedi'ot Aharanot* asserted in a 22 September report.

PDRY

YSP Central Committee Statement — Aden radio broadcast a statement issued by the YSP Central Committee following its 15-18 September routine session. The most urgent current task, according to the statement, is that of warding off the "tension and destabilization" encouraged by forces interested in keeping the country "weak and fragmented." The Central Committee drew attention to "parochial and narrow tendencies" within some governorates and provinces, and stressed that corruption has arisen because certain administrative leaders are taking advantage of business dealings with capitalist countries. The statement also announced the appointment of new party first secretaries in six governorates, and named new members of the YSP Higher Party Control Committee.

Talks in USSR — Deputy Prime Minister Salih Munassar al-Siyayli conferred in Moscow with Geydar Aliyev, first deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, Aden radio reported. Aliyev said the Soviet Union will continue to provide assistance as an expression of its solidarity with the country, the radio continued.

Aftermath of January Events — In an interview with the Kuwait *Al-Anba', Al-Siyayli said 2,000 people were killed during the* January 1986 events. Approximately 6,000 people fled with deposed leader 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, he continued, adding that 1,000 recently returned and 3,000 have been released from prison.

Sudan

Noting the Sudanese Government's decision to resume air traffic to cities in the south, a 20 September commentary broadcast by the SPLA's clandestine radio declared that the group's warning against such relief flights "has not been revoked."

Iran

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni recently stressed that most members of counterrevolutionary splinter groups should be pardoned as soon as officials are convinced that their release would not harm society, the head of prison affairs disclosed in remarks cited by IRNA. Most members of such groups have been released, the official continued, adding that members of the outlawed Tudeh party are currently writing a history of the party's "treacherous activities."

DRA-Pakistan

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry summoned the DRA charge d'affaires to protest a 17 September air raid and a 19 September artillery bombardment, Karachi radio reported.

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Gandhi Visits West Bengal, Views Gurkha Problem

BK201640 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Excerpts] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said the government will not allow the Gurkhaland Movement to become an antinational issue. If any attempt is made by the agitationists in this direction, the government will take stringent action. Addressing a public meeting in Haldi this evening, he said it is for the West Bengal government to deal with the law and order situation.

Referring to the statements issued by the center on the agitation, he said both the union law and home ministers have studied it and found nothing antinational. However, if any antinational issue is involved the government will take action. The prime minister regretted that the West Bengal government failed to ensure proper development in the state during the sixth plan. They could not utilize the resources properly. It is the failure in the implementation of the sixth plan which made the state poorer.

Referring to his visit to the rural areas of the state, Mr Gandhi said wherever he went the villagers complained that they were not getting adequate assistance under rural development and employment programs. He said during the discussions with the chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, the state government raised 61 issues out of which 20 were considered by the center. It is found that the financial implications of those 20 projects would be 7,200 crore rupees. He said the state government failed to spend over 1,000 crore rupees from the sixth plan outlay of 3,500 crore rupees. How is this amount to be spent, the prime minister asked. He urged the state government to complete each project sanctioned so far within the stipulated period. If they cannot do so within that period, the center will be compelled to stop any aid on these projects, he said. [passage omitted on Gandhi's visit to villages in Midnapore District]

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, has said that the prime minister's statement on the agitation in the Darjeeling District would help the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] to go ahead with its secessionist activities. Reacting to Mr Rajiv Gandhi's speech at Durgapur, Mr Basu said today in Calcutta that it would create serious difficulties to the state government to tackle the problem. Referring to the criticism regarding the law and order situation in some districts of the state, Mr Basu claimed that the situation was far better compared to many other states in the country.

Further on Gandhi's Remarks

BK191647 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The prime minister stressed the need for adopting modern technology to suit the country's needs and ensure all-round development. He said our farmers should adopt modern methods to increase production. Suitable technology should also be introduced in the rural areas to ensure their development. He called upon the people to wage a war against poverty. The government is making every effort in this direction. The 20-point program 1986 is meant mainly for this purpose. The prime minister said the government has allocated over 1,000 crore rupees for the renovation of Durgapur steel plant.

Referring to yesterday's talks with the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said that he and his Cabinet colleagues made every effort to remove all obstacles in clearing the development projects in West Bengal. A package of measures worth 684 crore rupees has been cleared to revitalize the state's economy. The prime minister regretted that a substantial amount of the sixth plan allocation for West Bengal was not utilized by the state government. As a result, many vital sectors, like power, energy, agriculture, industrial output, and rural development suffered very much. The prime minister said the non-Congress-I ruled states — Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Tripura — have spent more than their allocations and the center has allocated more funds to them. How can the center help when the West Bengal government did not utilize allocations, Mr Gandhi asked. He said the center is ready to help the state government to construct a new Bengal and bring back its old glory.

The prime minister made a brief stopover at Jamshedpur airport while on his way to Purulia in West Bengal. He met the Bihar chief minister, Mr Bindeshwari Dubey, and assured him that the center will provide all help to the flood-affected people in the state. Earlier today, Mr Gandhi went round some adivasi [tribal] villages in Purulia District of West Bengal and listened to the problems of the villagers. [passage omitted on Gandhi's meetings with local people]

Home Minister Clarifies Gandhi's Gurkha Remarks

BK211700 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] The home minister has criticized the remarks of the West Bengal chief minister that Mr Rajiv Gandhi is encouraging the Gurkha National Liberation Front [GNLF] leadership. Mr Buta Singh said in New Delhi today that Mr Basu was not only misleading the people but also distorting facts. The home minister pointed out that the prime minister had clearly stated in Calcutta that he would take stern action if any material is brought to his notice showing that the Gurkhaland Movement is antinational and secessionist. Mr Buta Singh said that it was Mr Basu who had suggested an amendment to the Constitution to accommodate the demands of the GNLF leaders which included the plea for granting regional autonomy to the hill areas of Darjeeling. The home minister said that the prime minister has categorically rejected this suggestion and ruled out any division of West Bengal.

Meanwhile, the CPI-M Politburo has said that the recent statement of the prime minister on the Gurkhaland agitation in Darjeeling will harm the antisecessionist movement. Briefing newsmen after a meeting of the Politburo members and the state committee of the CPI-M in Calcutta today, the ruling Left Front chairman, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, said that the allegation that the sixth plan outlay was not properly utilized in the state, and he said that the state government could not spend the entire outlay becuase of inadequate central assistance. [sentence as heard]

Talks Held With PRC on Border Dispute, Alleged Helipad

BK211631 Hong Kong AFP in English 1619 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] New Delhi, Sept 21 (AFP) — India and China have been holding talks on the alleged construction of a helicopter landing pad by Chinese troops inside Indian territory, the *Press Trust of India* (PTI) reported Sunday.

Former Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, a top aide to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, told reporters in Calcutta Saturday that the helipad had been built one kilometre (0.6 miles) inside the remote north-eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, PTI said.

"There is no question of India allowing any bit of her land to be given away to China," the news agency quoted Mr Bhandari as saying.

The Indian Government claimed last month that Chinese troops crossed into Arunachal Pradesh in June, built a helipad and forcibly collected taxes from Indian villagers.

Beijing denied all the charges and accused New Delhi of carrying out military incursions into Chinese territory.

Mr Bhandari added that China was laying claim to the territory on which the helipad had allegedly been built.

He said the two countries, which fought a bitter border war in 1962, were holding a dialogue about the reported Chinese intrusion.

PTI reported Friday that Indian Foreign Minister P. Shiv Shankar and his Chinese counterpart Wu Xueqian met for an hour Thursday at United Nations headquarters in New York.

The meeting was the first reported high-level contact between India and China since New Delhi accused Beijing of border intrusion.

China claims some 90,000 square kilometres (36,000 square miles) of land on the Indian side of the McMahon line, which the British colonial government established as the official Sino-Indian frontier in 1914.

India says it owns 38,000 square kilometres (14,600 square miles) of territory on the Chinese side.

Beijing has not accepted the McMahon line as the official frontier and seven rounds of Sino-Indian border talks have made little headway towards resolving the dispute.

Spokesman on Proposed Extradition Treaty With UK

BK191707 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] Talks between India and Britain on concluding an extradition treaty between the two countries are to be held in London early next month. An official spokesman told newsmen in New Delhi today that a delegation of legal experts will be leaving for Britain later this month or early next month for the purpose. The spokesman was replying to questions on news reports regarding Britain having delivered a draft extradition treaty to India. He said India had already given a draft to the British Government. Negotiations have been going on and we look forward to the conclusion of a mutually acceptable treaty.

The spokesman emphasized that the government hopes that the British authorities will show political will and use the executive powers at their command in dealing with problems relating to terrorist activities in that country directed against India. He recalled that India had furnished to Britain in 1984 the names of people involved in such activities but action is yet to be taken on the list.

EXPRESS Cited on UK Offer

BK200935 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0858 GMT 20 Sept 86

[From "Extracts From Editorials"]

[Text] *Indian Express*: Respond Positively

Britain's offer of an extradition treaty with India is in response to a long standing demand by New Delhi. India should react positively to it. The ball was set rolling during Rajiv Gandhi's visit to that country last October when activities of Sikh terrorists on British soil and extradition of those wanted for serious crimes in India came up for discussion. Suppression of terrorism acts which Britain had then offered to extend to India was regarded by the Indian side as inadequate. It was decided that legal experts from both countries would discuss and study arrangements to facilitate extradition of Sikh terrorists. A team of British legal experts who came here in January were given a draft of an extradition treaty which India had drawn up. Even though British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe had virtually ruled out such a treaty during his subsequent visit to this country a draft treaty has now been proposed....

More important, if extradition does not take place it will make crimes of violence committed in India prosecuteable offences in Britain and vice versa. It will no doubt provide for humanitarian safeguards and will require in extradition cases the presentation of prima facie case warranting commital for trial. But such provisions characterise all modern extradition treaties and should not be frowned upon.

Foreign Secretary Comments on 'Delicate' Tamil Talks

BK211619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] The foreign secretary, Mr A.P. Venkateswaran, said in Madras today that our own aim is to try to bring all the Tamil militant groups in Sri Lanka together through our good offices so that an amicable solution could be found to the ethic issue acceptable to all sides and ensuring equal rights to the Sri Lankan Tamils to live with dignity and self-respect. Mr Venkateswaran told newsmen before his departure for New Delhi that the third round of crucial talks between the TULF delegation and the Sri

Lankan Government was on the anvil and would take place in the near future. He said the issue is in a delicate stage of negotiations. We have lent our good offices in sorting out the problem and what is necessary is a political solution.

The Sri Lankan Government, after a lot of hesitation and vacillation, has now come out for a political solution.

3 Killed, 9 Injured; Curfew Imposed in Baroda

BK191555 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] In Baroda, 3 persons were killed and 9 injured when police opened fire today to disperse violent mobs throwing stones and acid bulbs this afternoon.

Indefinite curfew was imposed in Wadi and the city police station areas following the violence. Some incidents of stabbing were also reported. The situation in the city is reported to be tense.

Curfew Extended to More Areas

BK211559 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] In Gujarat, curfew has been extended to some more areas under the Raupura police station in Baroda from this afternoon following an incident of stabbing.

Tomorrow, curfew will be relaxed for 4 hours from 0800 in the morning to 1200 noon in the areas under the city and Raupura police stations and from 1400 in the afternoon to 1800 in the evening in the areas under the Wadi police station.

7 Baroda Policemen Injured

BK220311 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] In Ahmedabad, the situation is peaceful. No untoward incident has been reported during last night.

In Baroda, the police fired six rounds late last night in a curfew-bound area to disperse a crowd indulging in stone throwing and arson. Seven policemen were injured.

AISSF Leader Arrested; 2 Killed in Amritsar

BK201634 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] In Punjab, two persons were shot dead by terrorists last night at village Chatala in Amritsar District. A police spokesman said one of the killed was a village chowkidar [guard].

Meanwhile, the police today arrested the president of the All India Sikh Student Federation, [AISSF] Kuldip Singh Kahlon, from his village Sahari in Gurdaspur District. A police spokesman said in Chandigarh that Kahlon, a proclaimed offender, was wanted in many cases.

Strike in Assam Protests Minority Leader's Murder

BK191621 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] In Assam, normal life was disrupted in Silchar town today during a 12 hour bundh [strike] in protest against the murder of the president of the United Minorities Front, Mr Kalipada Sen. Shops, banks, and educational institutions remained closed. Work in government offices was also affected.

The bundh was called by the Cachar District unit of the United Minorities Front and was supported by all political parties and student bodies. Mr Kalipada Sen was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen on Wednesday in Gaurhati.

Junejo Reiterates Determined Stand on Kashmir

BK210809 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo, has reiterated that Pakistan will continue to make efforts for securing the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir. Addressing a joint session of Azad, Jammu, and Kashmir assembly and council in Muzaffarabad this evening, the prime minister said it is the earnest desire of the Pakistan Government to solve the Kashmir dispute on the basis of justice and this guarantees peace and stability in the region. He said Kashmir is the basic dispute between Pakistan and India and both the countries have always recognized this. The two countries also agree that this dispute should be settled through negotiations. The prime minister reminded that both India and Pakistan and the United Nations are committed to allow the people of Kashmir the right to choose their own destiny. He said Pakistan wants that the UN resolutions on Kashmir are implemented as early as possible.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said Pakistan fully supports the aspirations of the Kashmiri people and the people of Pakistan are with them in their struggle for the achievement of the right of self-determination which the entire world recognized through the UN resolutions. The prime minister also spoke of the common religion, culture, civilization, and the destiny of the people of Kashmir and Pakistan. He said it is the desire and endeavor of Pakistan that the Kashmiri people enjoy all their basic rights. He said the funds being made available to Azad Kashmir for its development are indicative of Pakistan's deep interest in the progress and prosperity of the Azad territory. He pointed out 728 million rupees have been allocated for Azad Kashmir this year as compared to 600 million rupees last year. Referring to his five-point [socioeconomic welfare] program, the prime minister said the Azad Kashmir should also implement this program for the socioeconomic uplift of the people. He was confident that development schemes would be chalked out for the welfare of the people to achieve the objectives of the program.

Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the Azad Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Council are working for the welfare and uplift of the territory. These democratic institutions enjoy all powers which are being exercised by the elcted persident and the prime minister of Azad Kashmir to serve the people. As a result of democratic set up, the development work has been speeded up. As a matter of fact, the prime minister pointed out, Azad Kashmir is ahead of Pakistan in certain sectors of development. The literacy rate is more in Azad territory than in Pakistan. Similarly, considerable headway has been made in the fields of communications and health.

Turning to Pakistan, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said efforts are underway to strengthen democratic system. He said that he was proud to say that the trust reposed by him in the political maturity of the people proved correct. It is now the endeavor of the government to speed up the development efforts in every sector in spirit of oneness to make the country prosperous and strong in every respect and face any danger. Then prime minister said the situation around Pakistan demands that we should strengthen internal security and defensive capability to be successful in our efforts for safeguarding the peace and security of the region. He hoped the opposition members would also discharge their duties in strengthening the democratic system and cooperate with the government for achievement of correct objectives.

Earlier, addressing a huge public meeting in Muzaffarabad, the prime minister assured the gathering that Pakistan Government would take appropriate measures at the United Nations and other forums for projecting the cause of the people of Kashmir. He said the progress and prosperity of the Azad territory is as dear to him as that of Pakistan. He assured the huge audience, which punctuated his speech with thunderous applause, that the Pakistan Government would make all efforts for solving the problems facing the Azad territory.

Further on Junejo Remarks

BK211528 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo has reiterated that the nuclear cooperation agreement between Pakistan and China is solely for peaceful purposes and nobody should protest it. He said this while talking briefly to newsmen before leaving Muzaffarabad at the conclusion of his 2-day visit. Answering many questions on Kashmir, he said the Pakistan Government's policy is very clear and he had clarified it yesterday at the public meeting and in the joint session of Azad Kashmir Legislative Assembly and Council yesterday. He added that nobody should have any doubt about the Pakistan policy on the Kashmir issue. The prime minister said Pakistan will abide by the promises it has made to the people of Kashmir.

Referring to the budget session of the Azad Kashmir Council in Muzaffarabad, Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo said the council approved six bills along with the budget for the current fiscal year. He said he was apprised in detail about Azad Kashmir development programs.

Answering a question, the prime minister said that the Siachen Glacier issue has no relation to the Simla agreement.

Noorani Views Relations With India, USSR, Others

BK211111 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
020000 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has said that Pakistan wants peace and promotes friendly ties with all countries of the world. Friendship with all and enmity with none is the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy. He was addressing the international [name indistinct] conference in Karachi yesterday.

On Pakistan-India relations, he said that President Mohammad Ziaul Haq has made sincere efforts to dispel misunderstandings between the two countries and has met with the Indian prime minister several times in a bid to improve their relations. At one stage, it appeared that the two countries were moving forward in this regard and there was expectation that the relations between the two countries would be normalized. But these expectations

could not be fulfilled. Zain Noorani said that he feels that some senior officials of the Indian Government have convinced Rajiv Gandhi that Pakistan does not want friendship with India and this is why they do not want the Indian prime minister to travel to Pakistan. He said that he would like to request the Indian prime minister to visit Pakistan and find out the real feelings and perceptions of this country's people.

On Pakistan-China relations, he said that Pakistan is proud of its friendship with China.

The minister of state for foreign affairs said that Pakistan's bilateral ties with the Soviet Union have always been good. Although these relations have been slightly strained due to Pakistan's principled stand on Afghanistan, the tension in Pakistan-Soviet relations will end as soon as the Soviet Union withdraws its forces from Afghanistan and allows the Afghan refugees to return to their homeland with dignity and honor.

On Pakistan's relations with the United States, the minister of state said that the two countries have the best relations at present and he is confident that the latter will always remain a good friend of Pakistan. Zain Noorani said that Pakistan also maintains friendly ties with the Islamic and South Asian nations.

A Radio Pakistan correspondent says that the international conference is being attended by delegations from India, Bangladesh, Canada, Kenya, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom.

Protest Lodged With Afghans Over Border Violations

BK211730 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1700 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Two fighter aircraft of the Kabul regime violated Pakistan's airspace on the 17th of this month and dropped bombs in an area about 8 miles northwest of Miram Shah in North Waziristan Agency. As a result of this bombing 1 civilian died and another was injured.

Later on the 19th, Afghan Armed Forces fired 15 rounds of artillery which landed in the general area of Chaman railway station outside frontier corps fort Chaman Bazaar and (Faizu Qilli). As a result 11 Pakistani nationals, 2 women, and 1 children [all figures as heard] were injured in the (Faizu Qilli) area.

The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the foreign office this afternoon and a strong protest was lodged with him over the unprovoked attacks.

Lahore Curfew Relaxed for 2 Hours 19 Sep

BK191601 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] A spokesman of the Punjab government announced in Lahore this evening that curfew will be relaxed from 0700 to 0900 tomorrow morning in those areas which are still under curfew. Curfew restrictions were relaxed from 1230 to 1430 this afternoon to allow the people to offer Friday prayers and to buy essential commodities. There was no untoward incident during this time.

Yaqub Khan Writes Shevardnadze on Naval Attache

BK211029 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1005 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has expressed his sorrow over last week's killing of the Soviet naval attache, Colonel Fedor Gorenkov, in Islamabad. In a letter to the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, he said the Pakistan Government would expeditiously complete the required investigations and mete out exemplary punishment to culprits responsible for this dastardly crime in accordance with the laws of the country. Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is due to meet his Soviet counterpart next week.

SRI LANKA

Further on 18 Sep Car Bomb Explosion in Batticaloa

BK191127 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1113 GMT 19 Sep 86

["OANA/POOL" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 19 *(Lanka Puwath)* — A powerful separatist terrorist car bomb exploded at the central bus stand in Batticaloa town, eastern Sri Lanka minutes before noon yesterday killing 13 civilians and wounding 10. Seven of the wounded were members of the Special Task Force (STF), while three were civilians, trapped in a private bus which caught fire.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that the STF jeep was passing a car parked by the Batticaloa bus stand when a bomb inside it exploded. As the jeep which was returning to camp drew away from the scene with the wounded police commandos, terrorists opened fire. Three civilians who were in a private bus which caught fire as a result of the explosion were trapped inside it and killed. Another, was electrocuted by a collapsing high tension power line. Nine other civilians also died in the tragedy. The Media Centre told *Lanka Puwath*, they were waiting at the bus stand. Some civilians might have been seriously wounded or killed by terrorist gun fire.

The collapsing high tension wire also set fire to several shops. However, the fires had died quickly. Three private buses and a motor cycle parked at the bus stand were damaged. There was slight damage to the STF jeep. One private bus and a car caught fire. The car with the bomb was completely destroyed.

Terrorists Damage Rail; Curfew Imposed

BK201149 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
1121 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Colombo, Sept 20 *(Lanka Puwath)* — A curfew was clamped within the municipal limits of Batticaloa, eastern Sri Lanka from 1400 hours (local time) today and it will continue till the law and order is restored in the area.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* this afternoon that from morning separatist terrorists were exploding hand grenades on the roads in Batticaloa town forcing the shopkeepers to close shops and threatening the people to stay indoors. Therefore, on the appeal made by the citizens of Batticaloa a curfew was clamped from 1400 hours (local time) within the municipal limits in Batticaloa.

The Media Centre further reported to *Lanka Puwath* that separatist terrorists attacked a security force railway line clearance patrol at Thampalagama, Trincomalee today, also in eastern Sri Lanka. Terrorists withdrew when troops opened fire.

Six improvised landmines buried by terrorists on the rail track near the 168th mile post exploded and destroyed a large extent of the track. A security forces person was seriously wounded as a result of the explosion.

Security Forces Arrest 19 Suspects

BK201025 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English
0956 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 20 *(Lanka Puwath)* — [Passage omitted] The Media Centre in Colombo reported that terrorists badly damaged the rail track from Batticaloa to Eravur by removing large stretches of rail track and burning sleepers.

Meanwhile, 12 of the 13 persons killed in the terrorist car bomb blast at the Batticaloa bus stand have been identified. Their bodies were handed over to relatives after inquiries and the inquests were held into the deaths. The dead were: [names indistinct]

Another development, 19 suspects were arrested by security forces personnel investigating the bomb blast. They are [names indistinct].

'Liberation Tigers' Blamed for Blast

BK201139 Colombo International Service in English
1045 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Excerpts] Police sources say that Thursday's [18 September] Batticaloa car bomb which caused a total of 13 lives was the work of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam — LTTE. Batticaloa was quiet yesterday, 24 hours after the morning blast at the bus stand which, IGP [Inspector General of Police] Cyril Harrods said, was most probably intended for a convoy moving from the Air Force base to the police station. The police driver at the wheel of a jeep in which seven Special Task Force commandos were riding said he had noticed a girl signalling someone at a distance moments before the car bomb at the northern end of the bus stand exploded. The jeep was damaged and seven policemen riding it were injured.

A government statement said that three passengers in a private bus that caught fire as a result of the blast died of burn injuries. [passage omitted]

An official release said that the terrorists had fired at the police jeep [words indistinct] by the blast as it drew away with the wounded and it is believed that some civilians might have been seriously injured or dead as a result of the terrorist fire, the statement said.

A REUTER report said that a citizen's group had charged that the police shot and killed at least 11 civilians minutes after the blast. But Tilakratnakara of the Media Center said that the civilians were killed either in the car bomb or in a shootout between the police and the terrorists. Police said the commandos continued the cordon and search operations in villages close to Batticaloa.

Repair work has begun to restore the Padiripoo ferry and the Manmunai bridge that the terrorists destroyed before stepping up activity in the Batticaloa area.

President Khamene'i Comments on War With Iraq

LD211650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0030 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Interview with Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, by an unidentified correspondent of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic on the "eve of the War Week," 22-29 September; place not given — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] On the Eve of the War Week, the president and chairman of the Supreme Defence Council received me. The purpose of this meeting is to clear certain ambiguities about the war.

Mr Khamene'i, the first question I wish to put to you is the question of the defensive nature of this war. Since the beginning of the war and Iraq's aggression, we have always claimed that we are defending ourselves. Even after our drive into Iraqi territory, we continued to state that ours is a defensive war. How do you define this situation?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. From the outset, our war began in a defensive manner; it is still a defensive one so far. The reason being that even our crossing into Iraqi soil was an extension of our holy defense. Obviously, when he feels powerful and capable the enemy wishes to cross our border, stay there as long as he can, create devastation and destruction, murder military personnel and civilians, bring about insecurity in daily life, and when he feels unable to resist and prolong his stay, he returns to his own border. As for us, we were expected, after having pushed the enemy out of our territory through the capability and sacrifices of our people, to stop at our border, without bothering to cross over and violate his territory. This is what our enemy desires.

However, man's rationale and logic as well as the Islamic precepts rule otherwise. To start with, we must see what sort of enemy we are facing. There are times when the enemy resorts to capturing a hill, a river, or some sort of border skirmishes. In such instances, he is crushed, and the problem is settled. Under such circumstances once the enemy is driven out the issue is settled. However, there are times when the enemy is bent on bullying. In such cases the problem will not be resolved by his withdrawal from border areas, but by a show of power by Islamic forces and by considerable sacrifices. The enemy counts on the likelihood that when he launches an aggression and captures some territory, that he will stay in the captured territory as long as he can. Even when he is pushed out, the enemy expects us to halt on our border in order to enable him to reorganize his forces and launch yet another aggression when the opportunity presents itself.

I remember an example I cited some time ago. I said that there are occasions when a burglar breaks into your house, takes over your farm, and causes devastation, destruction, or resorts to burglary or murder. If you tolerate him, then he stays right there. However, if you were not prepared to put up with it and then ejected him by force or a show of power, then no one can tell you not to leave your house and enter his house or farm because it would be a violation of his sanctum. Indeed not; wisdom rules that you must catch him, apply a stranglehold on him and, first, ask him why he did what he did and punish him; second, recover your rights. This is what wisdom rules; we did not invent it, all men and sane people adhere to this.

Basically, there are two types of territorial violations: One involves aggression, aimed at occupation and bullying; this is an invasion; it is an aggression, as Iraq's violation of our territory proves. Iraq had no reason to do this. Well, in the initial stages the Iraqi regime thought up certain pretexts, but even the regime itself was completely aware that these were simply pretexts. The rest of the world realized this as well, and that is why all those who became involved in this issue are still telling us, as they did from the very beginning, that they realize who the aggressor is. At any rate, this is an aggression.

Then there is the case of crossing into the enemy's territory in order to recover one's rights, to rebuke him, to safeguard security, and in order to secure the same border and prevent a recurrence of the same aggression by the very same enemy. One cannot call this an aggression. Having said that, as long as we were fighting inside our own territory and within our borders it was obvious that we were defending ourselves. When we entered Iraqi territory, it was again an extension of the same course. We have already cited the need for the punishment of the aggressor and his chastisement as one of the objectives for the prolongation of the war, which is quite true. Incidentally, I ought to mention that not all our border regions have been recaptured from the enemy; there are still pockets, including Naft-e Shahr, and certain other border areas, which are under enemy occupation. Even if it is to recover these areas, we must continue our defensive war. Nonetheless, even after the recovery of our areas, our pursuit of the enemy, our crossing of the border and pushing deep inside his territory in order to punish him are considered by everyone to be self-defense and the punishment of the aggressor. Therefore, it is quite clear that this is a defensive war.

Needless to say, we have often stated, and everyone accepted it, that we have no intention of staying in captured territory. Neither Al-Faw, the two islands [Majnun], nor any other parts are areas that we intend to annex to our territory. These parts belong to the Iraqis, and any competent regime that might come to power in Iraq. At present, our move is in line with defending the security, tranquillity, and peace which are imperative for both neighbors — Iran and Iraq.

[Correspondent] You mentioned the recovery of rights; when do you think Iran is to achieve that? What I mean to say is that (?whether it will be achieved with the defeat of Iraq) or whether we are trying to achieve certain objectives in Iraq's future policy?

[Khamene'i] Then, considering your question, by when you mean, what conditions?

[Correspondent] Yes.

[Khamene'i] We have already stated certain matters. These are important issues related to the war. The problem will not be resolved with the fall of Saddam and the coming to power of another man with his mentality. Indeed, some of our problems might be resolved as a result; but not all our problems will be settled. One major issue today is the punishment of the aggressor. Once Saddam is toppled, one he is punished, the issue will be

resolved. However, there is the question of our nation's rights, something which must be emphasized. We are held responsible as officials of this system to tackle this problem, unless the people themselves decide to forget it. At any rate, this is a question that does not concern us alone; it concerns the people. Obviously, if a 100 percent popular order, as desired by the Muslim Iraqi people, comes to power, then, naturally, our approach to such an order would totally change; the same approach would not, of course, apply to a regime that would lack such peculiarities. There is no doubt that we would show a certain forbearance toward such a regime.

[Correspondent] Another point of ambiguity that we wish to clear up is the statement that our objective in this war is to achieve a lasting peace. The question arises: How could a war lead to a lasting peace?

[Khamene'i] Indeed, this actually is one of those rather delicate and subtle issues. As I said before, one ought to look at one's antagonist in a war. If it so happened that the party with which one is at war is a warmongering person or system, then one ought to see how one can end the war and sedition. Is it possible to imagine that there will not be a war as long as he or the order is in power? The answer is, obviously, in the negative. Then, how can one get rid of him or the system? Is it possible to achieve this by appealing, standing on ceremony, or by making a diplomatic move? Indeed not; it is only possible to do this by means of pressure and force.

There are repeated references to this in Islam and the Koran. There is the famouse verse: Fight them until you eliminate sedition. What is sedition? We are talking about sedition concerning insecurity, chaos; a sedition which prevents a community and a nation from living according to their own needs and wishes. This is sedition; it is the highest form of sedition. Now, if there exists a system that keeps breeding sedition, what is one to do with it? One must fight it. Fight them until sedition is eliminated. How can you eliminate sedition? By dragging them down from their pedestal; by divesting them of responsibility and authority. There is another verse in the Koran which says: Sedition is graver than killing. One may willingly die or kill in order to eliminate sedition. This would be simpler than tolerating sedition. To get rid of sedition it would be quite all right to die willingly or to kill. This is the situation.

We were not the first to allude to the phrase which says war is a preamble to peace. Throughout history as well as in recent periods, this was one of the existing slogans. Hitler was a warmonger. What was the slogan adhered to by those who were fighting Hitler; those who entered Germany, captured it and took control of Berlin? They adhered to the slogan that they were fighting to restore peace. The question as to whether they actually did restore peace is another issue. Nevertheless, the slogan was correct, for Hitler was a warmonger. He was bent on dominating the world. Well, what can one do with such a man?

Before the outbreak of this war, Saddam printed a map in which Khuzestan was named as Arabestan, one of the provinces of Iraq. Fortunately, I had this map with me at the Harare summit, and I showed it to some of the leaders I met. I told them that it showed our enemy's intentions. Saddam wanted to dismember Khuzestan and annex it to Iraq. That was an idea that he has always entertained. Well, what can one do with him?

We have the same problem with Israel. Israel is a power-seeking and bullying entity. It has been so in the past, and it remains so today. Right from the beginning of its existance, it had a strategy of occupying parts of its neighboring countries, even deep inside them. It began this task by entering a country and occupying thousands of kilometers, for example, in Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan. Just as soon as it occupied those parts and felt that it could remain, it declared a cease-fire. The opponents then accepted a ceasefire, saying that if they would accept a ceasefire, then Israel would leave their territory. Then they began their diplomatic work, and you can see what parts Israel has evacuated. We can find no spot in the Arab homeland where Israel has left following diplomatic efforts except for the Sinai Desert, which has been partially evacuated at great cost, the cost being the recognition of Israel — a cost that has been one of the heaviest ever paid, and just for part of the Sinai Desert. Israel did not leave any place, either in Jordan, or Lebanon, or even Syria on its own accord following diplomatic efforts. It left Lebanon only after the efforts by Muslim youth, and only from part of it.

This enemy, who has been relying on aggression and bullying, does not retreat by requests and appeals, diplomatic efforts, complaints to the United Nations of even appealing to this and that for mediation. At most, it may say that it would retreat in return for concessions. Well, this is pursuing the bullying [tactics], and this is sedition.

At the onset of the war, as you know, thousands of kilometers of our soil were in Iraqi hands — under the feet of Iraqi soldiers; various mediation delegations arrived in Iran and told us to accept a cease-fire and pursue negotiations later. We had to say that we could not accept a ceasefire while Iraqis were on our soil, and that the very least they could say was retreat and discuss a ceasefire later. These delegations responded by saying that Iraq was powerful and on our soil, that we could not talk like this because Iraq had the power; and in fact, they had accepted that sort of logic from Saddam; that is to say, they had accepted that a powerful party could say that it had called a ceasefire and would stay put, and would discuss the means of retreat later.

We did not accept this. I have to point out to you that at the time a number of liberals and other people who occasionally made some noises about the war and suggested some points about peace were recommending acceptance, for the situation could be worse. They thought that if we did not accept it, the enemy would then capture Ahvaz and Dezful, and the situation would become worse. Now they say the same thing, that if we do not accept [the peace offer] the situation could be worse. To their dismay, our situation has become better every day. At that time acceptance would have resulted in our becoming like Syria, whose Golan is in Israeli hands; like Jordan, whose Jordan River and extensive areas of its soil, including Jerusalem, are in Israeli hands; or even like Lebanon, Egypt and other places. Saddam and the Iraqi regime were hoping that we would accept a ceasefire and then, following lengthy and detailed negotiations over many years, retreat 10 km and receive concessions. Well, fighting this form of entity, from whom nothing but bullying or repression and sedition ex- udes, is the beginning of peace, security, and tran-

quility — is it not? Well, you see, this war as a prelude to peace is a very clear concept.

[Correspondent] Yes, sir. Continuing with your remarks about a number of parties that have emphasized that the situation could be worse, and that you should accept negotiations, another group has come forward with another slightly different analysis, that following the recapture of Khorramshar and the (Khaybar) islands and the liberation of Al-Faw, Iran had the opportune moment for negotiations; that is to say, Iran could, to a large extent, have (?imposed) its conditions had negotiations taken place at these junctures. These parties state that similar occasions will not occur in the future, and that Iran will eventually have to accept negotiations under much worse conditions. Can you comment as to why this analysis is wrong, and where these conclusions originated?

[Khamene'i] I have two answers to the remarks of such parties: One, it is in accordance with their own (?logic) and views when they say that there will be no better opportunity, and why don't we negotiate given this opportune time, or why didn't we after Al-Faw, when there was another chance to begin negotiations. I tell them, how do you know that there will be no more opportunities. The day that they were at the bridge to Dezful and behind the woods by Ahvaz, you told us that there was no better time, and that we would have worse situations. You know that it did not turn out to be so. Did we have better conditions when we captured Khorramshahr, or when we captured the island? Naturally, when we captured the island we opened up ways to parts of Iraq that contain large oil reserves. We can regain the just rights of the nation even if they refrain from satisfying the lost rights of the Iranian nation by resorting to strong-arm and bullying tactics by simply selling their oil. The day that we captured Al-Faw, did we have a better situation, or the day we captured the island? Surely, the day we got Al-Faw.

"You see, their forecasts have always been proved to be inaccurate; they kept telling us that our situation would continue to deteriorate, whereas, on the contrary, our lots keeps improving. Now that events have proved to have been in our favor there is no reason why we should not take advantage of these experiences in the future as well, for there exists the likelihood that our situation might improve (?even further). These people [as heard] assert that present conditions are the best available to us. [passage indistinct] The point is that a self-reliant person, a person who is aware of his own power, as well as the power of the people, does not take such a course [words indistinct]. This is an answer to the sort of logic these people are pursuing; they are awaiting the day when, as they claim, we are in a more favorable position, so that we may enter into negotiations from a position of strength, that there is a chance that the day might come when we are more powerful. Experience has so far proved this point.

"[Words indistinct] what purpose our negotiations with Saddam would serve? To end the war and enable Saddam to display his power? He would then claim, through his propaganda machinery, which is already fed by global media, that indeed it was Iran which invaded us, but we forced it to retreat. Now the war is over: He would then continue his ruthless and oppressive rule, awaiting the opportunity to embark on yet another adventure.

"When Saddam launched his aggression against us he was holding the Algiers accord in his hand. Despite the existence of this accord, and despite the fact that only less than 5 years earlier he had signed a nonaggression pact with the former regime, he tore up the accord and launched his agression. He could resort to similar excuses in the future as well; one could always fabricate numerous pretexts. [passage indistinct] It is not wise for us to leave to fate our country's security, our revolution's security, and the safety of our people and our borders. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] "We have had active participation in war efforts since the beginning of this war. Considering that the people's motivation in participating in war efforts is strengthened daily, how long do you believe this readiness on the part of the people will continue?

[Khamene'i] "Well, as far as the people are concerned, I have seen so much greatness and magnanimity in them, it makes it difficult to make a (?judgement) about them. All I can tell you is that their readiness is increased daily. You mentioned my own presence at the fronts; during the early days of the war [words indistinct], despite the fact that our people were interested in getting involved — you must have noticed this — nevertheless, there was not much happening on the battlefronts. It must be said that our people were not to blame for this; this failure must be attributed to those responsible for organizing things [words indistinct]. However, when one looks at the people's participation today, one notices that there is no comparison between now and these earlier days. [passage indistinct]

"God Almighty has promised that when a nation makes a decision and acts upon that decision unwaveringly, then that nation's victory is certain. It might be delayed or brought forward by a few days but, no doubt, this objective will be obtained and [words indistinct]. I am sure that in view of the morale of the people (?in schools), the young persons, parents, those who provide [word indistinct] assistance, those who provide spiritual assistance. Various strata and their affection and fidelity, and their awareness about the objective of the war will no doubt resolve the war. People will be alongside us to the end of the war and will celebrate the victory.

[Correspondent] "We have repeatedly seen (?actions) on behalf of the Iraqi Armed Forces, such as coup attempts, commanders running away, and [words indistinct]. As the Supreme Defense Council's chairman, how do you evaluate the present state of the Iraqi Army, and what in your view does the future hold for them?

[Khamene'i] "The most important factor about the Iraqi Army is that it does not believe in what it is doing, it is a war without commitment. You know that although a military force is potentially capable and might receive assistance, if it does not believe in what it is doing, [words indistinct].

"You referred to the events in the (?Army) in that country. Of course, one hears about these events. Of course, what we hear about via the people is less than what is actually taking place. Many events are hushed up. Inside Iraq, especially in the Iraqi Army [words indistinct]. If someone does something which in view of the Iraqi (?regime) is [word indistinct] not only is he himself severely punished, but his relatives, family, his mother

[words indistinct]. That is why so many on the fronts seek asylum with us.

"Because of this wave of refugees, the Iraqi regime spread rumors saying that we kill POW's This is untrue and it is obvious that [words indistinct]. That was to stop people willingly surrendering to the forces of Islam. The reports we have, documented reports of course, and [words indistinct] from the Iraqi regime [words indistinct]. You see how many tens or thousands of POW's are captured by the Army — 10,000, 45,000, 15,000 — I do not have the exact figures. This figure is probably not a fixed one, but tens of thousands of people from military cadres [word indistinct] personalities, POW's, colonels, low-ranking officers, NCO's, or high-ranking officers are held by us.

"Can an army function when a half, one third, or one quarter or a major part of it is taken away? If they had been killed in an honorable war or [words indistinct], they have been captured. They have put their hands on their heads, have [word indistinct), and have pleaded to come to our camps. Now they are living in our camps and read the Koran. Some of them are really very great and valuable human beings. Some of the Iraqi POW's are Iraq's future hopes. I can tell you that some of them are the future hopes of the Iraqi Army. [passage indistinct]

This is one (?item). How can an army that has lost so many of its forces operate? Some of them have gone into hiding in remote areas far from the reach of the Iraqi [word indistinct]. Some others have organized popular resistance groups against Iraq and its (?neighbors). Some of them have left the country and gone to other countries [words indistinct]. The regime is not benefitted by this since it is not fulfilling the regime's objectives. This army should prepare itself to be of benefit to the future regime of Iraq — God willing. Some of them are no doubt capable of it.

[Correspondent] "In your analysis of the Iraqi Army, is there any hope that they will take any action against Saddam?

[Khamene'i] "You mean the army, taking action?

[Correspondent] "I mean different groups.

[Khamene'i] "Of course, there have always been matters such as this, but we never gave these any credence. If we have hopes for the Iraqi (?mojahedin) it is our hope for the Iraq people and the pious and struggling forces inside Iraq. Naturally, when the Iraqi military personnel discard and throw away the imposed disgraceful and dishonorable (?duty) — that is the (?obedience) of the Ba'th Party, Saddam and his cronies — then they will have gained themselves absolute honor. Just as a dear [words indistinct] of ours; he, at the last moment, took the repressive banner of the shah of shahs and threw it [word indistinct] the people. This was an honorable act. This can be done for other people. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] "My last question is related to the efforts made by a number of circles along with the global arrogance, which try to show that continuation of the war will not benefit [words indistinct] (?of Palestine). They claim the imposed war waged by Iraq [passage indistinct] and generally, what effects will the outcome of the war have on [words indistinct] Palestine?

[Khamene'i] "On the one hand, if we were to conduct the war [words indistinct] we could have had more personnel [passage indistinct] However, this claim that the continued war is to the detriment of Palestine [passage indistinct]. They cannot say why we are continuing a war that others initiated against us. this is not [words indistinct]. Yes, if they had not begun the war we would not have persevered, and had better [words indistinct]. The instigators of the war are guilty. Let us assume you have to conduct a pleasurable visit, and during your journey or while preparing for it, a bully, a hooligan, a thief, a brigand comes along, enters your home, and takes carpets [passage indistinct]. You are about to travel, but you cannot go on. Of course, if I leave this thief alone and do nothing to him and go on with my trip, having shut the doors, would you call this a correct move? If the delay in my trip has any consequences then that will be the responsibility of the attacker and the cause of the delay. I cannot be questioned for the delay. Somebody caused my delay.

"We are defending. We are defending our integrity, our honor, and our revolution against an aggressor. Undoubtedly, had no aggression taken place the situation would have been much more desirable for Palestine. The Palestinian nation and its true leaders, not those who (?take benefits) but those who are truthful — there are some among the leaders who will [words indistinct] Saddam — our revolution gave them an opportune time to [words indistinct]. It could have been used. They came, got us involved [words indistinct], and channeled our efforts, creativity, and our drive in this manner. [Word indistinct] we are now defending ourselves another Palestine would have been created. [Words indistinct] aggression then becomes a new trend. Then anybody, be it King Hassan or Mubarak, or the not so blessed, and others, are repeatedly kicking the Palestinian revolution and people. We would have been treated in the same manner [words indistinct]. It is a meek and weak nation, unable to defend itself.

"Now, here came a bully called Saddam, and others would have followed from other places, and we would have been under constant pressure. Could we then defend Palestine under those circumstances. Would Saddam and the Iraqi regime aid the Palestinians? If these Iraqis were the sort to defend Palestine, why had they not done anything prior to our revolution? [passage indistinct] We are following the war, pursuing those ideals that the Palestinians are fighting for. [passage indistinct]

[Correspondent] "I thank you for your time.

Friday Prayer Sermon Credits War's 'Ugliness' to Iraq

LD191225 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] On the eve of the 7th year of the imposed war the political-religious Friday prayers ceremonies were held today in most parts of the country. At the Tehran Friday prayers ceremonies led by Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani, Friday imam of Tehran, delivered the sermons, describing the motives for the imposed war waged by Iraq against Iran and the differences between this war and other wars in history. He said: This is not a war between two nations, for when the Iraqi regime attacked Iran it was done by a Ba'th party led by Saddam and instigated by global arrogance. It was an aggression against

the system of the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation and country. Responsibility for the continuation of this war today also rests with the Iraqi regime.

He added: One of the characteristics of this war is that its burden is borne by the Iraqi regime, while in Iran it is the nation that is bearing that burden. On the side that started the war, the Iraqi regime, emptiness, materialism, crime, and acts against the people are to be seen. In Iran one can see religion, light, duty, thought, and people.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin stressed the need for continued relief aid from the people for the warfronts and the fact that the Islamic Republic stands alone in the imposed war. He said: When the Iraqi regime attacked Iran, Iran was alone and no one supported it. In response to the aggresison no organization or body condemned Iraq for its aggression. With its aid to Iraq global arrogance also encouraged that regime bombarded our country's towns, villages, and residential areas with its missiles, aircraft, and artillery. Once the patience and forbearance of the Islamic Republic's officials were exhausted our combatants were forced to retaliate in order to stop Iraq from pursuing its crimes. History will attribute the ugliness of the war to the Iraqi regime.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani stressed: The Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation cry in unison and firmly that so long as the aggressive Iraqi regime and Saddam are in power we have no assurance that the war will be ended. Thus, the war will continue until the Aflaqi Iraqi regime and Saddam have been overthrown.

The Friday imam of Tehran referred in his sermons to clashes between Muslims in Pakistan, saying: These clashes are not related to the issue of Shi'a versus Sunni, for the prophet's household and Imam Husayn — peace be upon him — enjoy particular respect among both Shi'ites and Sunnis. For this reason the agents of arrogance aim to disrupt the unity of Islamic sects. Despite all these conspiracies the Islamic nation, Shi'ite or Sunni, must maintain its unity and cohesion and learn a lesson from these events.

IRGC Tests New Missile Defense System

LD201603 Tehran IRNA in English 1547 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 20, IRNA — The explosion heard in some parts of Tehran at about 13:45 GMT Saturday had come from the missile launching site of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Air Force.

The IRGC headquarters told IRNA that the sound was the result of some tests being conducted on new missile defense system of Tehran.

The headquarters further said that this new defense system will bring about a considerable change in Iran's ability to defend Tehran.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Communique No 2,599

LD191624 Tehran IRNA in English 1608 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 19, IRNA — Muslim combatants of Iran launched another offensive codenamed Ya Aba-Abdellah-Alhossein [name as received] in western Mehran at 23:00 hours local time (19:30 GMT) Thursday in continuation of their 16-September offensive in the same area, according to a military communique released here Friday.

Communique Number 2,599 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that the Iranian Muslim fighters killed or wounded an undetermined number of Iraqi troops in the offensive and captured others, of whom six have been transfered behind the battlefronts.

The communique said that Navy forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran intercepted two foreign trade ships in the Strait of Hormuz but allowed them to proceed on their voyage since they had no cargo destined for Iraq.

In exchange of fire in northwestern, western, and southern fronts, the communique said, the Iranian Muslim combatants targetted Iraqi defense positions with their artillery and tank fire killing or wounding some Iraqi troops. Over 10 enemy group bunkers, three munitions depots, as well as an observation post of the enemy were destroyed and a heavy vehicle of theirs was set afire, it added.

The communique said that some Iranian patrol groups were dispatched to Iraqi defense lines in the said fronts where they seized a great deal of military hardware as well as communications devices of the Iraqi forces.

Gendarmerie forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran killed or wounded some Iraqi soldiers, destroying two group bunkers, four heavy and light vehicles, as well as a heavy engineering vehicle of the enemy forces, the communique said.

The City of Abadan, Khuzestan Province, was sporadically shelled by Iraqi long-range artillery fire since Saturday as a result of which some places were damaged, the communique concluded.

29 Iraqis Killed in Bakhtaran, Ilam

LD191725 Tehran IRNA in English 1657 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept 19, IRNA — Twenty-nine Iraqi troops were killed or wounded when Muslim combatants of Iran shelled enemy positions, fortifications, and supply axes of theirs in border fronts of Bakhtaran and Ilam over Thursday and Friday.

Nine Iraqi individual and group bunkers were destroyed and an enemy vehicle was set ablaze in the course of the shelling.

4 Iraqi Patrol Boats Forced To Flee

LD191729 Tehran IRNA in English 1703 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Sept 19, IRNA — Four Iraqi patrol boats were forced to flee when they came under heavy artillery fire of the naval forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) in Khur-Abdullah [name as received] Thursday night and Friday.

Iranian Muslim combatants also destroyed five Iraqi observation posts, a mortar launcher, an anti-aircraft gun, and two engineering vehicles in western Arvand River during the same period, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers.

Communique No 2600

LD201631 Tehran IRNA in English 1615 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 20, IRNA — Iranian Air Force fighters strafed an Iraqi radar station in Rawanduz at 06:30 hours local time (0300 hours GMT) Saturday and safely returned to bases.

Military Communique Number 2600 released here by the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran Saturday said that Iran's Muslim forces had beaten back the remainder of Iraqi battalions Number Two and Three of Brigade Number 118 of Division 35 for hours after the Iraqi troops had launched a counter-attack against them near the Iranian city of Mehran in the early morning hours of Friday. The Iraqi forces reportedly sustained heavy casualties in the aborted attack, and 1 mounted machine gun, 13 ammunition dumps, and 5 light as well as heavy vehicles of theirs were totally wrecked under the Iranian fire.

Elsewhere in other battlefronts along the western province the Iranian forces blasted at least 10 gun emplacements of the Iraqi forces killing some enemy troops.

In the western fronts the Iranian forces monitored the flights of Iraqi Army helicopters, and blasted an ammunition dump of theirs across the Iranian city of Marivan.

Enemy positions along the southern fronts were also pounded by Iranian artillery which killed 10 Iraqi infantrymen.

In 'Eyn Khvosh, Yabis, and Sharhani the Iranian forces pounded Iraqi infantry positions killing an undetermined number of them and wrecking their hardware on Saturday, while Iran's gendarmes in the southern fronts blasted several enemy bunkers and observation posts and set afire two of their trucks.

The Joint Staff Communique said also that the Iranian Navy on Sept 14 intercepted a cargo ship of a third country at the Hormuz Strait but that it released the ship after a routine inspection satisfied the Iranians that the vessel was not carrying any war-related material for Iraq.

2 Iraqi Counterattacks 'Suppressed'

LD201741 Tehran IRNA in English 1734 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sept 20, IRNA — Iran's Islamic combatants severely suppressed two Iraqi counter-attacks northwest of the Iranian border town of Mehran during Friday and Saturday.

The enemy sustained heavy loses and was forced to retreat, frustrated in its attempt to recapture the liberated heights overlooking the Iraqi towns of Zurbatiya and Badra. In earlier operations which ended Wednesday the Iranian forces liberated the strategically important chain of Heights No 270, northwest of Mehran, where Iran's Islamic defenders have since strengthened their positions.

Iraq's Capture of Heights Denied

LD211815 Tehran IRNA in English 1754 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov., Sept 21, IRNA — An Iranian military commander denied Sunday the Baghdad regime's claim that Iraqi forces had recaptured Heights No 270 and No 203, northwest of here the heights were liberated by the Islamic combatants last week.

The commander also said that the enemy is incapable of taking even one single step forward towards Mehran, and its effort to advance would certainly lead to its defeat.

The operation commander of the region, northwest of this Iranian border town, told IRNA that the enemy forces have sustained heavy losses and retreated to civilian areas around the Iraqi towns of Zurbatiya, Badra, and Varmahraz.

He added that the Iranian defenders launched two successful attacks against the enemy as well as severely smashed three Iraqi counterattacks in the said area over the past five days.

In the successful operations of the Iranian forces, he noted, eight heights, including Nos 270 and 203 were liberated and that the Iranian troops thrust as far as 15 kms into Iraqi territory. The enemy suffered at least 1,000 casualties he noted.

Communique No 2601

LD211611 Tehran IRNA in English 1540 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Tehran, Sept 21 IRNA — Iran's Navy intercepted and inspected eight cargo ships and oil tankers sailing under foreign flags in the Strait of Hormuz Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying any goods for Iraq, said a military communique here Sunday.

Joint Staff Communique Number 2601 said the Navy also released on Saturday a cargo ship intercepted and escorted to a southern Iranian port for thorough inspection on September 17. Several Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and five enemy munitions dumps, two bunkers, one heavy machine-gun battery, some vehicles, and a number of gun emplacements were destroyed throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Iranian forces on Saturday.

In the western fronts, Iranian forces smashed some Iraqi counter attacks Saturday destroying three Iraqi munitions dumps, one heavy battery, and several light and heavy vehicles. Enemy armoured units were also heavily pounded by Iranian artillery.

In the northwestern fronts, Iranian Muslim combatants reconnoitered and heavily shelled Iraqi positions and supply routes killing or wounding a number of Iraqi soldiers and setting ablaze two enemy munitions dumps.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and seven enemy light as well as heavy vehicles and two bunkers destroyed in parts of the southern fronts Saturday when they were hit by Iranian artillery fire.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the fronts Saturday raging somewhat more heavily in Talaieyeh, [name as received], Zeydi, and Shalamcheh, southern fronts. Iraqi tank fire was silenced in Yabis and enemy engineering operations halted in North Faqqeh and Pichangizeh [name as received] on Saturday, the communique said.

1,080 Iraqis Killed in Mehran Fighting

LD211642 Tehran IRNA in English 1639 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] Mehran, Ilam Prov, Sept 21, IRNA — Some 1,080 Iraqi soldiers have been killed or wounded and 57 captured during five days of non-stop fighting between the Iranian Muslim combatants and Iraqi forces in the northwestern front here.

The defeated Iraqi troops retreated from the region when their Second Battalion of Brigade 118 of Division 35 was totally destroyed and the First Battalion of the same brigade as well as reserve brigade of Division 35 were routed suffering damages of 50 and 60 percent respectively.

The northwestern front was reported to be in relative silence Saturday night and Sunday.